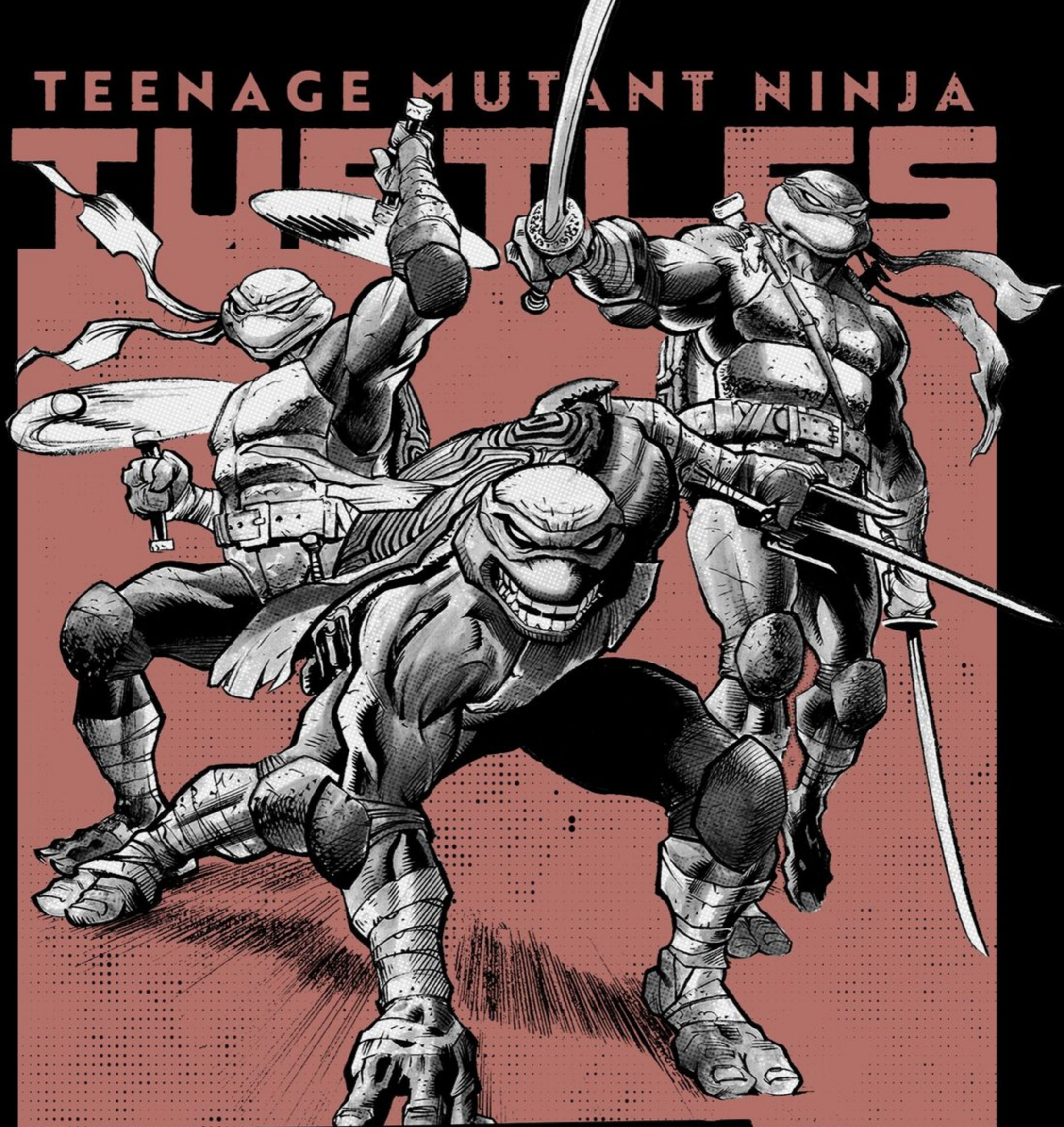


JASON AARON • JUAN FERREYRA

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES



TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES



NYC VS TMNT PART THREE:

THE WAY OF THE

Rotted Rat

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THE TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES CREATED BY KEVIN EASTMAN & PETER LAIRD



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SEEMS LIKE ONLY
YESTERDAY...

...I WAS STANDING IN
FRONT OF A GREEN
SCREEN, FACING AN ARMY
OF MAKE-BELIEVE NINJAS
WITH RUBBER SWORDS...

ALL UNITS,
OPEN FIRE!

...COVERED IN PING-PONG
BALLS, FEELING BORED
OUT OF MY MIND...

...FEELING ALL KINDS
OF EMPTY INSIDE...

A LIFE WITH LUNGS FULL OF
SEWER SLIME, GUT FULL OF
PIZZA, DANGERS LURKING
IN EVERY SHADOW.

I WAS MISSING...
SOMETHING REAL.

I KNOW. I'M THE
BIGGEST IDIOT
ALIVE, AREN'T I?

HRRRGH!

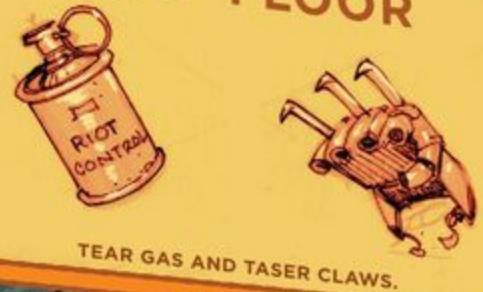
PARKING LOT
ARCHERS

FOOT PATROL
PRECINCT
HEADQUARTERS.

IT'S ALL OVER
THE NEWS.
DONNIE'S BEEN
TAKEN INTO
CUSTODY.

D.A. HALE PARADED HIM
PAST THE CAMERAS,
CHAINED AND MUZZLED
LIKE SOME KIND OF
RABID DOG.

TOP FLOOR



...EVERY.

LAST DAMN.

NINJA-PACKED
INCH OF IT.

SECOND STAIRWAY



BUT ONLY A SPECIAL
KINDA FOOL COULD
STILL NUNCHUCK HIS
WAY THROUGH...

SECOND FLOOR



FIRST STAIRWAY



IT'S A TRAP, ANY FOOL
COULD SEE THAT.

FIRST FLOOR



THEY'VE LOCKED HIM
UP IN FOOT PATROL HQ,
UNDER HEAVY GUARD.

UNTIL...

DONNIE!

HUFF PUFF GASP

DONNIE...I'M
HERE, BRO. C'MON,
LET'S GET YOU
OUTTA--

HE AIN'T
HERE.

WHAT?

OH.

IT'S
YOU.

THEY
MOVED HIM.
WHOLE THING'S
A *SETUP*.

GREAT. AND
WE WALKED RIGHT
INTO...WAIT...

RAPH, WHY AREN'T YOU
STUCK FULL OF ARROWS
AND THROWING STARS
AND THESE DARTS THAT MAKE
ME SEE *TWO* OF YOU?

BECAUSE I'M NOT *STUPID*
ENOUGH TO ATTACK A
BUILDING FULL OF ARMED
FOOT COPS...BY COMING
IN THE *FRONT DOOR*.

I CLIMBED IN
THE *WINDOW*.
YOU KNOW, LIKE
A *NINJA*.

YOU MEAN
THAT WINDOW
WITH THE *BAR*S
OVER IT?

WHAT?!

WELL,
DAMN.



SO WHICH WAY'S THAT FRONT DOOR AGAIN?

SOMEWHERE THATTA WAY, I THINK. ON THE OTHER SIDE OF...ALL OF THEM.



FINE. JUST STAY OUTTA MY WAY. I AIN'T NO GUEST STAR ON YOUR STUPID TV SHOW.

I'D REALLY LOVE TO PUNCH THE BOTH OF YOU RIGHT NOW, BUT I'M TOO TIRED TO MAKE A FIST.

WHERE'S LEO? WHY DIDN'T HE COME WITH US?

HELL IF I KNOW.



I CAN ONLY DEAL WITH ONE CRAZY BROTHER AT A TIME.

THIRD FLOOR, REPRIS
FLAMETHROWERS



I USED TO LOVE THIS CITY. THE ENERGY OF IT.

LIKE THE WHOLE PLACE WOKE UP WIRED TO THE GILLS AND STAYED THAT WAY TILL THE WEE HOURS.

IT WAS THE BEST PLACE IN THE WORLD TO BE YOUNG AND FULL OF FIRE.

BUT THE CITY
HAS CHANGED.

ALMOST AS MUCH
AS WE HAVE.



LET ME
GUESS...DONNIE
WASN'T EVEN
THERE.

I TRIED
TO TELL YOU.
SPLINTER TRIED
TO TELL YOU.

IF WE WANT TO HELP
OUR BROTHER, WE
CAN'T KEEP BANGING
OUR HEADS AGAINST
THE SAME *WALL* OVER
AND OVER.

AIN'T MET A
WALL YET THAT'S
HARDER THAN
MY SKULL.

YOU WANNA
STAY HERE PLAYING
FOOTSY WITH A *DEAD*
RAT, LEO, THAT'S UP
TO YOU. BUT I AIN'T
ABOUT TO LEAVE
DONNIE TO--

WHERE *WERE*
YOU, LEO?! YOU
SHOULDA BEEN
THERE WITH US!



WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE *BROTHERS*! WE'RE SUPPOSED TO LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER!

YOU'RE RIGHT, MIKEY. THAT'S WHAT DONNIE WAS TRYING TO TELL US.

WE'VE BEEN SO *LOST* IN OUR OWN ANGER THAT WE COULDN'T HEAR HIM.



WE COULDN'T HEAR OUR OWN FATHER, WHO'S RIGHT HERE IN FRONT OF US!

I'M TELLING YOU, BROTHERS, I KNOW IT SOUNDS INSANE, BUT IF YOU'D JUST SIT AND *LISTEN* FOR A MOMENT TO WHAT THIS RAT HAS TO--



No!!!

I'M NOT GONNA LET YOU *ABANDON* DONNIE LIKE YOU ALL DID *ME!!!*



HERE WE GO AGAIN.

THINGS DIDN'T FALL APART BETWEEN US OVERNIGHT! THIS STARTED A YEAR AGO! AND YOU GUYS WON'T EVEN ADMIT IT!

YOU ALL LIT OUT OF NORTHAMPTON AND LEFT ME BEHIND!

THAT AIN'T AT ALL WHAT HAPPENED.



YEAH, MIKEY. YOU WERE THE ONE WHO LEFT. AFTER ANOTHER OF RAPH'S EPIC *TANTRUMS*.

WAIT, WHAT?!



THAT AIN'T WHAT HAPPENED EITHER! IT WAS YOU, LEO, ALWAYS BOSSING US AROUND LIKE WE WORKED FOR YOU!

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DROVE EVERYONE AWAY! THE REST OF US LEFT BECAUSE OF YOU!

OKAY, LOOK, SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE BOTH MAYBE HAD TOO MANY CONCUSSIONS. WHY DON'T YOU--



...IS LEARNING
TO BE LONELY.



HEH.
WATCH
THIS.

TIME TO
RATTLE THE
PRISONER.



DON'T WORRY, BUD.
YOU WON'T BE ALONE
IN HERE FOR MUCH
LONGER.

SOON ENOUGH
WE'LL HAVE PLENTY OF
YOUR LITTLE **MUTATED**
FRIENDS BEHIND THESE
BARS WITH YOU.



THEN THE
REAL FUN
BEGINS.

BECAUSE
THEN I GET
YOUR SORRY
GREEN HIDE IN
COURT.

WHERE
I'M THE
BIG, SCARY
NINJA.



I SEE. IT ALL MAKES
SENSE TO ME NOW.

I CAN SEE YOUR
PAIN, D.A. HALE.
YOU'RE WRAPPED IN
IT, LIKE YOU ROLLED
IN THUMBTRACKS.

YOU LOST
SOMEONE
CLOSE TO
YOU.



NO...**TWO**
SOMEONES.
YOUR **PARENTS**,
PERHAPS?

YOU...
YOU SHUT
YOUR STINKING
TURTLE
MOUTH.



YOUR PARENTS
WERE VERY PRECIOUS
TO YOU. THE ONLY
PEOPLE YOU'D EVER
BEEN CLOSE TO,
WEREN'T THEY?



AND IT WAS
A **MUTANT** WHO
TOOK THEM
FROM YOU.



A TERRIBLE
LOSS. AND I
TRULY AM
SORRY.

BUT YOU
SHOULDN'T HAVE
KILLED HIM.









THIS IS A
BROOKLYN-
BOUND LOCAL
2 TRAIN.

THE NEXT
STOP IS...
59TH STREET,
COLUMBUS
CIRCLE.

HEY.

YOU
SHOULDN'T
BE *SLEEPING*
IN HERE.

AIN'T SMART
TO CLOSE YOUR
EYES ON NO
TRAIN THIS TIME
A' NIGHT.

*METRO
SHARKS* IS
SURE TO
GET YA.

HUH? METRO
SHARKS?

MUST BE
DREAMING. OR...IS
THIS AN EPISODE
OF MY SHOW?

SHOW? YOU
SLEEPING ONE
OFF? WHAT ARE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?

AH, IT'S
NOTHING. I WAS
ON THIS DUMB TV
SHOW IN JAPAN
FOR...

ACTUALLY,
YOU KNOW
WHAT, IT WASN'T
DUMB. THAT'S MY
BROTHER RAPH
TALKING.

WAIT A
MINUTE...THAT'S IT!
*SUPER MUTANT
TURTLE POWER
GO!*

WHERE IN
THE WORLD
DID YOU GET
THAT *SHIRT?*!

THAT
THING? OH,
I GOT IT--

I THOUGHT IT
WAS PRETTY
COOL. LOTTA
ACTION, POSITIVE
MESSAGES. IT
WAS CALLED...

IN THE
VAST BLUE
WILDERNESS
BENEATH THE
WAVES...

...NATURE'S GREATEST PREDATORS GLIDE EFFORTLESSLY THROUGH THE SHADOWY DEPTHS.

A SCHOOL OF HELPLESS CLOWN FISH PREPARE TO MAKE A DESPERATE DASH FOR SAFETY.

THE FOLLOWING SCENES MAY PROVE TOO DISTURBING FOR YOUNGER VIEWERS.

LET ME GUESS. THE METRO SHARKS.

BUT AS THE SHARKS CIRCLE, MEASURING THEIR PREY, THEIR GREAT MAWS READY TO RIP AND TEAR...

...IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE.

THEY'RE *ANIMALS*. DOORS OPEN, MAKE FOR THE STREETS FAST AS YOU CAN.

IF YOU'RE LUCKY, YOU'LL ONLY GET CURB STOMPED.

YOU GO AHEAD. GET SOMEWHERE SAFE.

ME?

...I'M SOMETHING OF AN ANIMAL MYSELF.



FROM THE DEEP, ANOTHER SHADOW EMERGES.

AN ARMORED *SEA TURTLE*, ITS SHELL A FORTRESS...

...ITS HARDENED BEAK...POISED TO STRIKE.

THE SHARKS TOTALLY TREMBLE IN FEAR. MAYBE EVEN PEE THEMSELVES A LITTLE.



WHAT...IS THAT?

DUDE, IT'S ONE OF THOSE *MURDER TURTLES* FROM THE NEWS.

BUT WHAT ARE THOSE *STICK THINGIES* IT'S TWIRLING?

THINK MY SISTER HAD SOME OF THOSE WHEN SHE WAS A MAJORETTE IN THE MARCHING BAND.



SERIOUSLY? YOU GUYS DON'T KNOW *NUNCHUCKS*?

YOU'VE NEVER SEEN A BRUCE LEE MOVIE? OR PRETTY MUCH ANY TV SHOW FROM THE '80s?

THESE ARE *CLASSIC MELEE WEAPONS*!



SURE, PAL.
THIS HERE'S A CLASSIC TOO.



YOU KNOW....I'M STARTING TO THINK YOU GUYS AREN'T SEA CREATURES AFTER ALL.

WHICH IS GOOD. 'CAUSE I'D FEEL BAD ABOUT DOING TO SHARKS...

CLINK!

...WHAT I'M ABOUT TO ENJOY DOING TO YOU.

♪ GO! GO!
EXTREME
GREEN NINJA
TEEN! ♪

♪ FROM A
SEWER FULL OF
FREEDOM WITH
YOUR SHELL
OF FURY! ♪

カバンガ

♪ PARTY DUDE
SUPREME! ♪

♪ YOU ARE THE
PIZZA
MASTER! ♪

SUPER MUTANT
TURTLE POWER!
Gooooo!







NO MORE!

FOR DAYS AFTERWARDS,
I ENDEAVOR TO
CORRECT MY MISTAKE.

NO MORE
TERRORIZING
THE PEOPLE OF
THIS CITY!

NO MORE
DEFAMING
MUTANTS!

AND NO MORE
DISRESPECTING
THE NUNCHUCK!

MY NAME IS
MICHELANGELO.
AND I LOVE
THIS CITY.

MY CITY.



MIKEY?

HUH?



WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING HERE?

SAME THING AS YOU, IT LOOKS LIKE.



FIGHTING THE FIGHT THAT REALLY MATTERS.

JUST LIKE DONNIE WAS TRYING TO TELL US ALL ALONG.

SO YOU FINALLY HEARD IT, HUH?

HOW'S THAT?



THE WISDOM OF THE RAT.

MASTER SPLINTER'S TEACHING.



DUDE, THAT THING *STINKS* WORSE THAN EVER. AND OUR FATHER IS STILL *DEAD*.

BUT YEAH, I REMEMBER EVERYTHING HE EVER TAUGHT US.

GUESS WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT, TOUGH GUY.

IT DOESN'T
SUDDENLY MAKE
EVERYTHING
BETTER.

SHOULD WE
MAKE A *BREAK*
FOR IT?

I DON'T KNOW
ABOUT YOU
GUYS, BUT I'M
PRETTY MUCH
GIVE-OUT.

IT DOESN'T
MAGICALLY HEAL
THE WOUNDS OR
SALVE THE HURT.

LEAST WHEN
IT COMES TO
RUNNING.

FIRST THING
YOU'VE SAID IN
WEEKS THAT I
AGREE WITH.

HEY.
DON'T RUIN
THE ZEN.

BUT FOR A
MOMENT AT
LEAST...

...WE ARE ALMOST
WHAT WE WERE...

...BACK WHEN WE
WERE AT OUR BEST.



ALMOST.



WE ARE STILL FRACTURED.

TOO BROKEN UP AND BEATEN DOWN FROM WEEKS OF LOST FIGHTS.



WE SHOULD'VE SEEN THE TRUTH SOONER.

THAT SOUND... LEO?!

RAPH, IS THAT YOU?!



WE SHOULD'VE HEARD IT RINGING IN OUR EARS.

I HEAR... CRYING! GAAGH!



TO BE CONTINUED...

NINJA NOTES



THE WHOLE TURTLE TEAM IS IN TROUBLE THIS WEEK:

**DONNIE'S BEHIND BARS! CASEY'S STILL IN A COMA! APRIL'S FACING
OFF WITH THE FOOT PATROL! THEY BETTER FIGURE THIS OUT SOON,
CUZ A FORMER NEMESIS IS RETURNING TO THE STREETS OF NYC:
THE SHREDDER IS BACK IN HIS OWN SERIES IN AUGUST 2025!**

The whole Turtle team is in trouble this week: Donnie's behind bars! Casey's still in a coma! April's facing off with the Foot Patrol! They better figure this out soon, cuz a former nemesis is returning to the streets of NYC: The Shredder is back in his own series in August 2025! I watched the '90s cartoon as a kid and knew the Turtles got their start in the comics but never read them. When this new series was announced, I made sure to pick up a copy. And I am glad I did. I am really enjoying the story set years after what I am familiar with. And such lovely art too. I am glad Juan Ferreyra is going to be the regular artist. The panel on issue 6, page 12 where the Turtles jump across a rooftop, away from the gas, was fantastic. Keep up the great work!

Ashley Sanjith Mahabeer

Welcome to the TMNT comics, Ashley! These famous Turtles might be movie and TV stars now, but we're honored to keep them fighting crime on the page while the studios handle the big screen.

While I will also love Leo the most, this run has me LOVING Donnie! I've felt for a while that Donnie wasn't quite as crazy as he seemed to be and that there was SOMETHING going on with "Master Splinter." I still haven't quite figured out what is going on with that but this most recent issue confirmed my suspicions. I have been a Turtles fan since I was a kid and this run is really bringing me back to that. I guess my only complaint is that my boy Casey Jones was taken out so quickly! He isn't dead, so I am hoping and assuming that means he will return at a later date, but it was a shame that he was taken out so quickly in the run. I've always really liked Casey because of our similar names. Anyways, keep up the great work! This book is absolutely amazing so far. Catch y'all next month!

Cason Jones

Our boy Cason—I mean Casey—charged right into the action and had to get benched! But don't worry...no way a couple bruises and internal bleeding are going to keep him down for long.

Wow. I just finished issue 7 and I'm almost speechless. I've been here for the entirety of the IDW era of Turtles and I've seen some stellar writing but the absolute grit of this current series and its take on our boys is a punch in the gut. The Turtles have faced so many threats and been on so many wild adventures and put through so much and now we're here, a story focused on the family and how they need one another but are sadly failing to see it. There's been a focusing of the lens on a smaller portion of their universe and it's exactly what the book needed to propel it forward. There are many threads and even some mystery but it all boils down to facing problems together. Mr. Aaron definitely has his thumb right on the pulse of what makes the Turtles so great, and painting this story in the darker tones he's using is fantastic. I hope Mr. Ferreyra will continue to give us the actual visuals for the series as I truly love his artwork, which fits the tone of this series perfectly. I adore what you all are doing and issue 7 was somehow an even higher peak of what we've seen so far and as a lifetime fan, this is the type of Turtles storytelling so many of us long for. Please keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
Joe

We're glad you're not totally speechless, Joe, cuz otherwise we wouldn't have your note for our page. Thanks for pushing past your awed silence to send along such nice compliments.

Cowabunga!

I can't tell you how much I love TMNT, and this new series has been excellent. I find the stories compelling, and the artwork is superb. What really got me wanting to write in was issue 6. I just felt like there were so many homages paid that I just wanted to share my thanks. Seeing the boys back in New York was so reminiscent of the last great original Mirage run, "City at War." Soon as they get there they run into trouble with the Foot. Those panels where they are fighting in the road, hopping traffic and battling mounted ninja biker cops?! This is pure nostalgia from those lovable and classic TMNT NES games. Ferreyra even captures some of the original film's magic. Maybe it's the portrayal of New York or the rooftop scenes... Whatever it is, this series has got me feeling like a kid all over again!

Thanks for the joy you're bringing. Turtle Power!
Anonymous

Whoa! Wild throwbacks, man! The NES game was iconic, and there's nothing better than ninja biker cops. We're glad our comics are taking you down memory lane. Hopefully, those ninja don't pull us over for driving too fast.

At 40, I have been a lifelong Turtles fan but only recently have I got into the Turtles comic world with issue 1 of this "Return to NYC" series. I've just finished reading number 7 and I am still so, so impressed with this entire project. I have loved seeing my beloved, matured Turtles (and Splinter, in spirit) in a new story that captures the dark and gritty of their world as they grapple with survival, identity and legacy in an increasingly hostile world—and where much of the hostility is directed toward each other! The tension hits the highs of the 1990 film, which still stands as a remarkable and hard-hitting story as well as personal favourite. I can't wait to savour the next issue, as I have each one!

Yours sincerely,
Haneef from Winnipeg

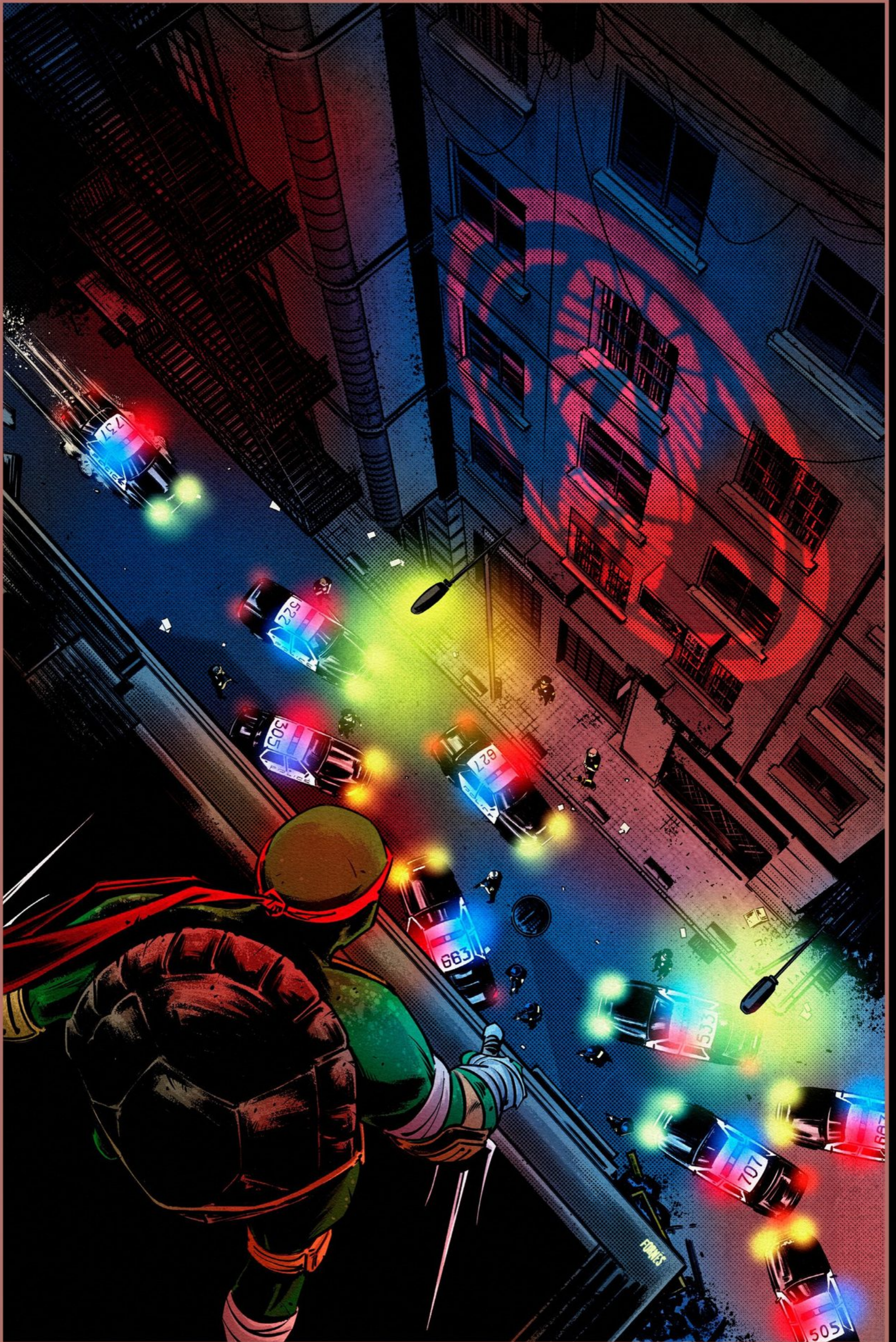
Congrats on 40 years of Turtle power, Haneef! We're so, so impressed with you, too! If you're looking for classic Turtles, check out TMNT: Journeys, which reprints iconic issues of the Mirage Volume 4 run. Launching August 2025!

Here's to many more years of the Turtles! Let's all get together again in 40 years in the Ninja Notes to catch up? Actually, we can't wait that long. Let's chat again next month in issue 10!

Have something to add?
Drop us a line at
TMNTletters@idwpublishing.com

Mark the email "okay to print" if you don't mind us potentially sharing your feedback in this column!

NEXT ISSUE



COVER A



ART BY
JORGE FORNÉS

COVER B



ART BY KEVIN EASTMAN
COLORS BY FAHRIZA KAMAPUTRA

COVER C



ART BY
JUAN FERREYRA

COVER D



ART BY
STEPHEN BYRNE

COVER E



ART BY KHARY RANDOLPH
COLORS BY EMILIO LOPEZ

RI COVER



ART BY
ANDY SURIANO

RI COVER



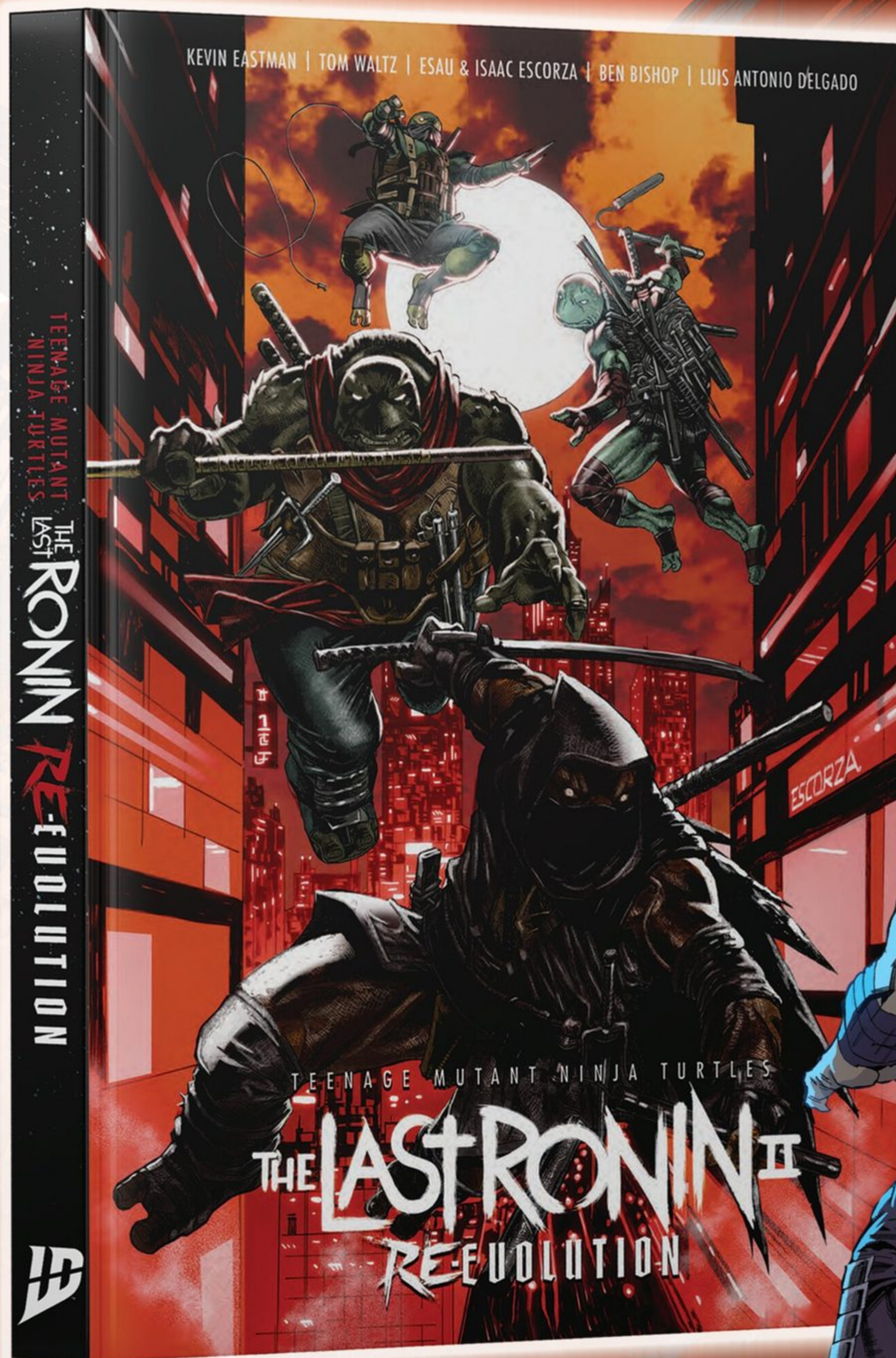
ART BY
CASPER WIJNGAARD

RI COVER



ART BY
KEVIN EASTMAN

RETURN TO THE DARK FUTURE OF
THE LAST RONIN AND BEHOLD THE NEXT
HEROES TO RISE FROM THE TMNT LEGACY



“A NEW TMNT EPIC.”—IGN



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JULY 2025



VOL. 1

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES

MUTATION

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES MUTATION



ALSO FEATURING
CASEY JONES:
AGENT OF THE
FOOT CLAN!



Jdez '24
DELPECHE

TOM WALTZ • ERIK BURNHAM • PAUL ALLOR • CALEB GOELLNER • GAVIN SMITH
VINCENZO FEDERICI • MATEUS SANTOLOUCO • JOSE JARO • ILIAS KYRIAZIS • AUGUSTE KANAKIS

Art by Javier Fernandez | Colors by Patricio Delpeche

Follow Raphael on a lone adventure that leads into the new *TMNT* ongoing series! Plus, stories featuring Mutant Island, Casey Jones, Pepperoni, and the Punk Frogs!



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ON SALE **JULY**





VIEW FROM THE BACK PAGE

IDW Starfleet Admiral Heather Antos here! I'm nearly four years into my mission as group editor on the *Star Trek* line here at IDW, and my goodness what a journey it's been so far! From **STAR TREK** #400 to **STAR TREK** #500...bringing Benjamin Sisko back from the Bajoran Wormhole to defeating Kahless' Red Path alongside Worf in **DAY OF BLOOD**...defying all comic book page turns and physics in the 200-page interactive graphic novel **LOWER DECKS: WARP YOUR OWN WAY**...the crew here at IDW have taken the spirit of "boldly going" to heart!

This summer may be the end of the Eisner-nominated **STAR TREK** and **STAR TREK: DEFIANT**, with both series wrapping up with the universe-shattering event **LORE WAR** and finishing out in the oMEGA-sized emotional finale, **STAR TREK: OMEGA**—but that doesn't mean the comics stop there!

This summer we're bringing you THREE brand-new comics series, folks! From Christopher Cantwell and Megan Levens comes **STAR TREK: RED SHIRTS**, where we're showing that it's not just the uniforms that are made of red. In Robbie Thompson & Travis Mercer's **STRANGE NEW WORLDS—THE SEEDS OF SALVATION**, we're exploring the icy Lovecraftian depths of a new planet. And in Tilly & Susan Bridges' **VOYAGER—HOMECOMING** (along with artist Angel Hernandez), we're giving the crew of the beloved show the climactic finale they never quite got for its 30th anniversary!

Strap in, though. This may be the first wave of new **STAR TREK** comics announcements in 2025...but it certainly won't be **THE LAST**...

HEATHER ANTOS
GROUP EDITOR



ON SALE JUNE 11th